

passed a crime package that provides State and local governments the resources and flexibility to effectively fight crime in their communities and take violent criminals off the street.

Today, we bring H.R. 7, the National Security Revitalization Act, to the floor which addresses the military and defense policies of this Nation.

Under President Clinton, we have seen a drift in our foreign policy coupled with a dangerous decline in our military capability. And while the buck used to stop at the Oval Office, we have seen it passed more and more frequently to foreign command. A tragic example of this leadership void ended in the death of American soldiers on the streets of Mogadishu.

Today, we offer a bill that will put limits on placing U.S. troops under U.N. command and it will require prior authorization by Congress, before American troops are used in U.N.-organized nation building operations.

Mr. Speaker, while the President continues to pass the buck, our young men and women of the armed services end up paying the price. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as Republicans rush to enact the Contract With America, they brag about cutting spending, about eliminating agencies, about reducing the size of Government.

But wait a minute; go ahead and listen to what they say, but more importantly watch what they do. As the Republicans call for budget cuts, look at what they have done in H.R. 7. They have written a bill with billions and billions of dollars in new defense spending, new weapons systems. And then they snuck a new little something into the bill, H.R. 7: The Republican Contract With America mandates Congress to spend \$1.5 million on a new commission, a task force, a committee, a blue-ribbon panel, another layer of bureaucracy. Can it be that the Republicans have discovered that one of the problems in this country is a shortage of agencies and commissions and task forces and layers of bureaucracy? Time out for common sense. Do we really need a new commission to study military needs?

This new \$1.5 million commission is redundant, it is superfluous, it is another layer of bureaucracy. Mr. Speaker, it is the Full Employment Act for Unemployed Defense Consultants. I urge Members later today to support the Menendez amendment.

CARTERIZING OUR MILITARY

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, remember the Carter military buildup. Something about that statement doesn't ring true. And neither do the claims we have heard from the other side of the aisle about our proposal to strengthen our Nation's military.

Yesterday, we passed the final piece of the crime package that will allow us to take back our streets. The National Security Revitalization Act will allow us to take back our military. Just as we gave the men and women in blue the tools to do their job, we owe it to our men and women in the military the resources to do their job, protect our freedom.

This bill is about accountability. We will ensure that the United States is not a servant to the United Nations. No longer will our troops have to serve under foreign command. They will not serve in a blue baret when they serve the red, white, and blue.

Yesterday, we kept our promises to fight crime. Today, we will keep our promise to fight for those men and women who are protecting our freedom.

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT: DANGEROUS, RECKLESS, ISOLATIONIST

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, if the Congress passes this dangerous, reckless, isolationist bill called the National Security Act there will be no need for a State or Defense Department. There will be 230 House Republicans who can be secretaries of State and Defense, calling the shots for American national security and defense policy. God help us.

Mr. Speaker, we are debating the most radical reversal of U.S. foreign policy in 10 years. That is irresponsible.

Here is what this bill does: It eviscerates the President's conduct and ability to run foreign policy. It brings back the billion-dollar star wars program at the expense of the readiness of our troops. And what is the threat? The Power Rangers?

It destroys our peacekeeping ability at the United Nations, and Persian Gulf would not have been able to happen.

It disrupts NATO by deciding who can join and who cannot.

Mr. Speaker, America's allies, particularly at NATO, at this moment are asking if this is a joke or a bad dream, and our enemies are salivating.

THE HAWKS ARE BACK IN TOWN: FRUGAL, CHEAP

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we passed the final piece of the crime package dealing with personal safety, being personal safety, personal security. Today we are going to begin with national security.

Mr. Speaker, tell me what do you think of when you think of the 1970's? Do you think of disco, Watergate, inflation, sky-high interest rates, leisure suits? And, of course, a hollow military? It was not a good time in American history.

But, Mr. Speaker, the hawks are back in town; the hawks are back in town, having been elected by the American people in November. There is something we have to remember about this particular group of hawks: it is not just hawks but frugal hawks, cheapskate hawks, tight-with-a-buck hawks.

We are going to provide a very, very strong national security package, but we are going to do it under the microscope of fiscal responsibility. You can absolutely count on it.

When it comes to the national leadership, one of the things we absolutely know is that in the Congress, in the White House, in this country, just like the rest of the Nation, nature abhors a vacuum. So when we do not have leadership at the top, we have to find it somewhere. That is what this bill is all about.

TAKING CARE OF OUR VETERANS

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, if anyone needed any more proof that the Republican majority is prepared to march in lock-step, like lemmings over a cliff, look no further.

Last night, an amendment to the Republican welfare bill, which would have spared legal residents who have served this country in our Armed Forces from being cut off from social service programs, was defeated by the GOP on a strict party-line vote.

That is right, you heard me correctly. Every Republican, save one who so courageously voted "present," voted last night to repay the loyalty, dedication, and service of these veterans with a slap in the face. They made it clear that Republicans view permanent residents who serve their new country in the Armed Forces as immigrants first, and veterans second.

Instead of spending billions for star wars, Republicans should be taking care of their veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this outrageous action against those veterans who risked their lives on behalf of their country, so that we who serve in this body may do so in freedom, marks a dark day in our history.